



Jared Boyd, Raistlin Brabson, and Margo MacSweeney play a Milepost Music session at Mabry Mill.

Making music and memories on the Parkway

Make your next Blue Ridge Parkway experience musical! The Blue Ridge Music Center is hosting outdoor amphitheater concerts, a dynamic visiting exhibit, daily Midday Mountain Music presentations, and Milepost Music performances on the Parkway.

A talented lineup of performers are taking the outdoor stage for the Deep Roots, Many Voices concert series. Shows take place at 7 p.m. Saturdays at the Music Center on the Parkway, milepost 213 near Galax, Va. This year's bands include Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway, Steep Canyon Rangers, Kruger Brothers, Tuba Skinny, Martha Redbone, and more.

Music and visual art mix in the eye-catching

visiting exhibit *Half-Tone Folk Heroes: Traditional Musicians as Pop Art*. Artist Gina Dilg's illustrations pay tribute to the old-time, bluegrass, early country, and folk artists who have inspired generations of musicians.

Sit a spell and listen to free mountain music as local and regional traditional musicians perform from noon to 3 p.m., daily at the Music Center, and on alternating Sundays, from 2 to 4 p.m., in Virginia at Humpback Rocks, Peaks of Otter, and Mabry Mill, and in North Carolina at The Bluffs Restaurant at Doughton Park and Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville.

Find all the details at [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](https://www.BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org).

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Conservation grant to protect views and resources

Leaders of several North Carolina environmental groups gathered on Earth Day to celebrate grants awarded by the Duke Energy Foundation. The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation was one of 18 groups selected, and received a \$25,000 grant at the event.

This support will fund an initiative to guide landowner outreach and voluntary land conservation to protect viewsheds and natural resources along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Foundation will collaborate with conservation groups to analyze land parcels, with emphasis on the protection of rare species, clean water, and migration corridors for species impacted by climate change. The effort will focus on the 14 North Carolina counties served by Duke Energy in the Parkway corridor. This program will also be introduced in Virginia.

Our thanks to the Duke Energy Foundation for their strong support of our park's views and natural resources!



(Left to right) Amy Strecker, President of Duke Energy Foundation; Kendal Bowman, State President for Duke Energy in North Carolina; Jordan Calaway, Foundation Chief Development Officer; Timothy W. Maloney, Foundation Trustee.

Plates protect the Parkway!

We are so grateful for every driver who orders the Blue Ridge Parkway license plate in North Carolina and Virginia! Proceeds from the tags provide vital funding to accomplish improvements in the national park.

Visit GetThePlate.org to order today!



(Left) Ajena Cason Rogers, Deputy Chief of Interpretation at Colonial National Historical Park. (Right) Ajena as a National Park Service Ranger on the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1984.

Ribbon cutting for Mount Pisgah platform

The rain couldn't dampen spirits at a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new viewing platform atop Mount Pisgah. The project was a collaboration between the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, Carolina Mountain Club, and Blue Ridge Parkway.

Through donor support for the Trails & Views Forever program, the Foundation funded materials and contractors for the project.



Carolina Mountain Club provided a team of volunteers to reconstruct the platform. The project involved the use of a funicular owned by Sinclair Broadcast Group to transport materials up the 5,721-foot peak.

The initiative was inspired by the memory of Lisa Hambrick Hagebak and championed by her family to recognize her love of the North Carolina mountains and Parkway.



(Left) Viewing platform atop Mount Pisgah. (Right) Hawk Hagebak cuts the ribbon with (left to right) Assistant Parkway Superintendent Neal Labrie, Pisgah National Forest Recreation Director Jeff Owenby, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation CEO Carolyn Ward, and Tom Weaver with Carolina Mountain Club. Photos by David Huff

Earth Day celebration at Craggy Gardens

We were honored to celebrate Earth Day at Craggy Gardens with N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper, Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Tracy Swartout, and our friends who work to protect the national park and all the extraordinary places in Western North Carolina, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Blue Ridge Conservancy, Friends of Mountains to Sea Trail, Carolina Mountain Club, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, and many more groups and individuals.

"Look at the beauty we have in front of us, yet it takes every one of us doing all that we can to make sure that we preserve it, and make sure that our children and our children's children and future generations get the benefit," Cooper said during the celebration.



(Left to right) Mike Parker, Chairman of the Tribal Council, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Carolyn Ward, CEO of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation; N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper; Parkway Superintendent Tracy Swartout; Reid Wilson, Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources; Jay Leutze, Senior Advisor with Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Photo by Rachael McIntosh

A new season at The Bluffs

The Bluffs Restaurant at Doughton Park is open! The Parkway's first dining establishment welcomes diners from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, and features a fresh menu of homestyle favorites, including fried chicken, a meatloaf sandwich, pimento cheese, salads, and more. Beer and wine are back.

Kim Lawson has joined the Foundation's team as the new director of The Bluffs to serve great food and tasty beverages and host events that celebrate heritage foodways and build community connections. Learn more at BluffsRestaurant.org.



717 S. Marshall St., Suite 105B
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-5865



The Bluffs Restaurant, milepost 241, in Laurel Springs, N.C.

Need to update your information? Contact Rebecca Askew at raskew@brpfoundation.org.



THE DENIM BALL

Tickets are on sale now for the annual Denim Ball. A High Country favorite, the benefit for Moses H. Cone Memorial Park is set for 5 p.m., Thursday, September 5, at Camp Yonahnoka at Linville Golf Club.

Join us for delicious mountain cuisine, live music, dancing, auctions, and more at the elegantly rustic camp that features sweeping views of Grandfather Mountain. Part of the excitement is seeing all the dressy denim ensembles guests wear to the big occasion!

For individual tickets and tables, visit TheDenimBall.com. To sponsor the Denim Ball and show your organization's support

for the preservation of the historic country estate, contact Jordan Calaway at (866) 308-2773, ext. 245, or email jcalaway@brpfoundation.org.



The view at Camp Yonahnoka.